

# **EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**East Providence, City Hall**

**145 Taunton Avenue**

**East Providence, Rhode Island 02914**

**February 8, 2011**

## **Open Session**

**Mr. Tsonos, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. School Committee members present: Luisa Abatecola, Stephen Furtado, Ryan Tellier, Chrissy Rossi, Charles Tsonos. Also present: Dr. Mario F. Cirillo, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, Robert M. Silva, Esq. and Andrew A. Thomas, Esq.**

**The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag & Moment of Silence were observed.**

**Student Liaison Report – Andrew Butler provided a report on high school activities and events.**

**Student Recognition – Certificates of recognition were presented to members of the Mohawks Team and the Riverside Middle School Robotics Team.**

**Public Comment I – Motion by Mr. Tellier, seconded by Mrs. Rossi.**

**Vote 5-0.**

**Mary Teixeira, teacher at Silver Spring, spoke regarding the recess policy and that it was an insult to her to record how she spends fifteen minutes of time per day. She felt that teachers are often not appreciated by the public and it has been the most rancorous three years she has ever seen. She hopes all will work together; being at odds about times is not important. This is student time and we should be talking to each other instead of at each other. We need to acknowledge people who do the work every day, allow them to be participants, and work together and trust each other, then we will see a difference. She wanted suggested a once a quarter meeting open to anyone teachers, administrators, etc. to find out about pros and cons of something instead of top down decisions. The principal of her building empowers teachers and values what they have to say.**

**Mr. Tsonos stated that he would like a plan to be approved before voting on layoffs; he said we have the largest central administration the city has ever had and we must look at many different ways to reduce the deficit; he mentioned Judge Silverstein's ruling that notwithstanding any law, the School Committee can do whatever they have to do when dealing with a deficit and we need to study that decision because it works for everyone.**

**Mr. Furtado asked to move Item H up on the agenda, seconded by Mrs. Rossi. Vote 5-0**

## **H. Action Items**

**Personnel Appointments/Layoffs – Mrs. Patti Whalen, H/R and Benefits Manager presented the personnel items:**

**Appointment – Bridget Cox – 3/5 Nurse/Teacher – Private Schools, Effective January 26, 2011**

**Motion by Mr. Tellier, seconded by Mrs. Abatecola to approve. Vote 5-0.**

**Re: Contract Non-Renewals or Layoffs, Mrs. Rossi was not comfortable with doing layoffs either.**

**Dr. Cirillo explained that layoffs are done yearly as a preventative measure and that employees need to be notified by March 1st. Notification regarding state aid is received in May and most times, teachers are called back. The teachers have been notified already and the School Committee would be tying the hands of the administration if this is not done. In response to a question by Mr. Furtado regarding when the notices went out, Dr. Cirillo advised that personnel were informed yesterday. Mr. Barham explained that the teachers are always notified first before the School Committee votes on it.**

**Mr. Tsonos said he does not like the process and is not comfortable making a decision at this time. Mrs. Rossi asked about having**

another meeting later this month. Mr. Silva advised that an action must be taken before March 1st regarding layoffs. Mrs. Rossi explained that she just received the list of layoffs and wanted more time to review it. Discussion: Mr. Tsonos was not comfortable with this and announced that there will be an executive session with many individuals first; motion by Mrs. Rossi to have a meeting in executive session before March 1, 2011, seconded by Mr. Furtado. Vote 5-0.

**Personnel Report on Retirements/Resignations/Leaves of Absence – Mrs. Patti Whalen presented the personnel items:**

#### **PERSONAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Alan Svendsen Business Teacher/Student Liaison- EP High School  
2011-2012 School Year (year 2)**

**Deana Dufficy 3/5 Speech Language Pathologist – 2011-2012 School  
Year (year 2)**

**Caren Skurka Occupational Therapist – 2011-2012 School Year (Year  
2)**

**Faith Paradis Occupational Therapist – 2011-2012 School Year (Year  
2)**

**Rebekah Gendron Technology Teacher – Riverside Middle School  
-2011-2012 –**

**To resume position as Supervisor Instructional Technology**

**and Data (Year 2)**

**Rinda Foster Special Education Teacher – East Providence High School – 2011-2012 School Year**

**Kerri Gravina Grade 3 Teacher – Whiteknact Elementary School – 2011-2012 School Year (year 2)**

## **RETIREMENT**

**Marion Henneous (26 yrs) Grade 3 Teacher – Francis Elementary School – End of 2010-2011 School Year**

**Meribeth Bowden (22 yrs) Music Teacher – Francis Elementary School**

**End of 2010-2011 School Year**

**Gerald Dias (23 yrs) Pre-Engineering Program Instructor – CTC Effective 3/1/2011**

## **RESIGNATIONS**

**Gloria Pasquini Special Education Teacher – East Providence High School – End of 2010**

**2011 School Year – Upon Completion of 2 Years Leave Of Absence**

**Jennifer Benell Speech Language Pathologist – Kent Heights**

**Elementary School – End of 2010-2011 School Year – Upon Completion of 1 Year Leave of Absence**

**Alissa Tatarian Special Education Teacher – Martin Middle School – Effective 2011-2012 School Year Upon Completion of 2 Years Parental Leave**

#### **FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT**

**Kathleen Bickford Grade 4 Teacher – Oldham School – Effective 2/1/11-5/17/11(approx)**

**Jennifer Clark Grade 3 Teacher – Kent Heights Elementary School – Effective 3/7/11-5/9/11(approx) School – Effective 6/6/11-11/22/2011**

**Mr. Furtado thanked the retirees for their service to the system.**

**Discussion: Mrs. Rossi asked if the items need to be voted on; Mr. Tsonos answered they are just to inform the Committee regarding resignations and retirements. Mr. Barham explained these actions are contractual and the School Committee does not have to approve or deny them; historically the School Committee cannot deny.**

**Mrs. Rossi asked if the School Committee has to decide on these items now and if this is something the School Committee has**

**authority to approve or deny. Discussion: Mr. Furtado asked about some of the positions being held.**

**Valarie Lawson, President of the East Providence Education Association explained that teachers may take two years of leave; the first year, it is guaranteed they can return to the same job, after that, the individual is just guaranteed a job; the second year is extended personal leave and after one year, the rights to a specific job are gone and the job should be posted. Mrs. Rossi asked for clarification about people shifting around; movements are not brought to School Committee; do teachers just get to bounce around. Ms. Lawson stated that if the job not posted, it is a violation of contractual language. Mrs. Rossi could not see any immediacy to have to vote on these positions this evening.**

**Mr. Silva recapped that the discussion is about Section 8.12.6 of the teachers' contract and the query is whether or not the School Committee has to take an action; he will report back at a special meeting.**

**Mr. Barham asked that the coaching positions be removed from the list (Tubman and Watson) and that the School Committee then vote on the rest of the list. Mr. Silva will research the issues and report back.**

**Reports: Superintendent's Report**

**Financial Report – Mary King, Finance Director reported that revenues are at 21.55%, since the bulk of state aid is received in April. Expenditures are at 26.55% and some accounts are low due to timing issues i.e. insurance expended at 87%, (insurance completely paid at the beginning of the fiscal year) while technology is spread over the course of the year; it appears that everything is on target at the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year.**

### **Budget Review and Discussion**

**Deficit Elimination/TANS Update – Mr. Barham reported that a meeting is scheduled for 2/18/11 at 9AM to include Mrs. Rossi, Ryan Tellier, Dr. Cirillo, Mr. Barham, Mary King, Mayor Rogers, the City Manager, City Finance Director and City Bond Counsel. Mr. Tsonos commented that he had a concern about the tone and demeanor of a letter the Superintendent wrote to the City Manager, Mr. Andreoni; he felt this was not helpful as we need the City Council's cooperation; the School Committee stated they would work cooperatively with the City Council and this tone does little to assist in finding a collaborative solution; the citizens are going to have to pay the bill; he thought this was disheartening and he has now decided to attend the meeting on February 18, 2011.**

**Dr. Cirillo disagreed with these comments; he called the City Manager and worked to set up the February 18th meeting. In response to a**



question from Mrs. Rossi as to when the Superintendent first learned about the meeting, the Superintendent responded that he had sent out an email to the Chair on the date, time and place. Mr. Tsonos said he did receive it. Mrs. Rossi countered that all School Committee members should be copied on any emails so they can all be on the same page; everyone on the School Committee should get everything other members receive, since they are all equal members. Mr. Tsonos commented that notes from the Principals' meetings should have been sent to all the School Committee members.

**Bond Funded Construction Update** – Mr. Barham reported that a sub-committee meeting is scheduled tomorrow morning, February 9th at 8AM to review proposals, to meet with SMMA, the architect, and to go over the schedule to show how it dovetails with the schedule of Johnson Controls. The duration of time the Clerk of the Works will be needed and the compensation will be determined and which bidders to call in for interviews. The sub-committee will then make a recommendation to the full building committee on the successful candidates who will then recommend a candidate to the School Committee.

**Esco Bonds** – Mr. Barham reported that representatives from Johnson Controls met with Fire Department and City Inspectors to determine what applications and permits are needed; the process should take about a week to ten days. Mr. Barham also reported that because of recent snow storms, a structural engineer inspected the

roofs on several of our buildings.

**Food Service Equipment Update – Mary King, Finance Director,** explained that since the last meeting, the financing to purchase the equipment has not been finalized and she is continuing to work with two other sources but cannot order the equipment until the financing is in place. She will report again at the March 8th meeting.

**Discussion took place: Mr. Feola, Facilities Manager at the High School,** explained that the equipment is from the 1950's and has been continually patched over the years; the past couple of months, pasta had to be prepared off-site. When the new equipment is received, he believes it can be installed in three to four days. Mary King will continue to work on financing options. Mr. Tsonos commented that he does not like hearing out in the community that the cafeteria is out of business and would like to be made aware of any land mines. Ms. King related that although the Superintendent did report on this a couple of months ago, the items have to be purchased through a bid process, which takes time because there are rules which must be followed. Mr. Furtado would like to know ahead of time instead of hearing it at a public meeting.

**Mrs. Rossi** said she first found out about the problem at a fundraising meeting and through an email; she would like to receive a list of what else is about to hit the fan so she can have an idea of what's coming. Mr. Tsonos commented that sharing information helps to make the

process work. Mr. Barham explained that this was brought to light about two years and has been on the radar screen; it is not a new issue and nothing is being hidden. Mr. Furtado's concern was being told at the last minute because the School Committee is in charge of finance; he asked to keep the School Committee in the loop in order to work this out together; he knows the infrastructure is failing; even an email that something is being worked on would be helpful. Mr. Tsonos mentioned the possibility of holding weekly meetings with the Superintendent. Mr. Barham related that Mary King is still working on this and it had not fallen through.

**Security Camera Update –** Mary King reported that the purchase is subject to a pending grant and there was nothing new to report since the last meeting. She will provide an update at the March meeting.

**Technology Update –** Kelly Ahrens, Director of Technology reported that two labs were installed at Martin Middle School; work is in progress at Riverside Middle School and at the High School. A grant will provide funding for on-line catalogs in five of the elementary school libraries (the high school and middle school libraries are already online) A meeting will be held on February 16th for parents to gain information on Power School and learn how to obtain their student's grades, assignments, and attendance, on-line, which will provide a great home to school connection.

Mrs. Rossi asked about Verizon charges; Kelly Ahrens reported that

**all numbers should be converted and we should not receive anything further.**

## **Consent Agenda**

### **Approval of Minutes**

**A motion was made by Mr. Tellier to approve the minutes of meetings held on January 20, 2011 and January 25, 2011, seconded by Mrs. Abatecola. Vote 5-0.**

**Discussion: Mr. Furtado asked about minutes for principals' meetings, which should be copied to all members. Dr. Cirillo will send them to all members now that it has been clarified.**

**Ms. Rossi was told the protocol was to go through the Chair for copies, who then went to the Superintendent and then the information was sent to her; she does not want to go through the Chair; when she requests something from the Superintendent, copies can be sent out to all members; all School Committee agreed on this. Mr. Tsonos said he wanted it to be clear that anyone can now go to the Superintendent to get anything they are looking for.**

### **Requisitions – Bill List**

**Warrant #1064 2/4/11 \$ 502,105.06**

**Warrant #1066 2/4/11 \$ 754,487.98**

**Warrant #1067 2/4/11 \$ 856,519.30**

**Warrant #1068 2/4/11 \$ 401,142.13**

**Motion by Mrs. Rossi to approve, seconded by Mr. Furtado for discussion; he noted that the amount of Warrant #1064 was changed from \$511,099 .16 to \$502,105.06; (\$8,994.10 was deducted for invoices which were pulled out for questions). Vote 5-0.**

**Mrs. Rossi requested a short recess. The School Committee reconvened.**

### **Old Business**

**Recess Update – Dr. Cirillo advised that the transition had been made at the elementary schools. Mrs. Rossi disagreed that all had been taken care of and asked Attorney Silva for advice on the difference between principals time (referred to in the Superintendent's memorandum) and planning time in section 9.5.2 of the teachers' ratified but still unsigned contract, which states 15 minutes before and 15 minutes after school. According to the contract, recess is planning time and not principal's time; she asked what needed to be done to pass this as a resolution.**

**Attorney Andrew Thomas reported that the School Committee passed a resolution at a prior meeting as a settlement of arbitration; at the School Committee of January 11th, the Superintendent advised the School Committee that changes had been made but that the teachers**

were to account for fifteen minutes of their time. At the January 25, 2011 meeting, Mrs. Rossi and Mr. Tellier requested that the practice return back to the old way with no tracking, however, the matter was not on the agenda and a vote was deferred to the attorney to research the issue. Mrs. Rossi sent a resolution to the attorney which was forwarded to the Superintendent to put it on the agenda if it were necessary to do that; the Superintendent answered that he would send out a memo to take care of it. Mr. Thomas then asked for the memo to share with Mrs. Rossi on the policy implementation effective 2/1/11. Mr. Thomas then advised the Superintendent that Mrs. Rossi had concerns about the characterization of 15 minutes of principal's time and the Superintendent should take out "principals' time" from the wording. Mr. Thomas then advised the Superintendent that Mrs. Rossi requested that a resolution be placed on the agenda regarding what was passed back in December; the School Committee thought the issue was resolved, but apparently there are still reservations about it.

Mrs. Rossi said this is more than a policy change; it is push back and we are paying legal to get the simplest things done; she reads the blogs; there is a reason for making it an issue; the contract with the teachers has not been signed since 2008; she tallied up the lawyer's bills at \$1,324,873.79; every time the teachers file an action, it costs money and we should not be spending a penny on contract language. She would like this passed and recess put back to where it was. Attorney Thomas advised to let the Superintendent know about the

**problem with a directive.**

**Mrs. Rossi said that there is 15 minutes planning time per contract; the memo needs to be revised to remove “principal’s time” and change it to “planning time” and then resend it to elementary principals. Attorney Thomas advised that if there is an issue with the Superintendent’s memorandum, the language “but will remain principal’s time...” should be stricken from his directive.**

**A motion was made by Mrs. Rossi to approve, seconded by Mr. Tellier. Discussion: Mr. Tsonos said this is a directive from the School Committee; Mr. Tellier thought was an ongoing problem.**

**Dr. Cirillo explained that it cannot be put back the way it was because the day is constructed differently. and there is now over 304 minutes of preparation time; there are expectations to enhance student learning; he visits elementary schools; teachers do not supervise recess and teachers are not being asked to account for time, but there are different time constraints they did not have before**

**Discussion regarding what the issue is with teachers doing what they used to do with recess before.**

**Dr. Cirillo responded that the total off-time teaching runs around two hours a day. Mr. Tellier said he wants to be done with this, approve the resolution, and not keep discussing this at every meeting.**

**Mr. Silva responded that Mrs. Rossi proffered a resolution and he recommended passage. Mrs. Rossi made a motion to pass the resolution and requested clarification of the memorandum, seconded by Mr. Tellier.**

**Mary Texeira, a teacher at Silver Spring, commented that schools can go back to the old way, but not this year because of schedules; this action was taken without all the parties involved and the decision to change the health curriculum is how we got to the recess issue; no teachers made the decision not to teach health; she asked Dr. Cirillo to withdraw any objection to teachers having that time and to visit the classrooms; this is not an issue, because extra time is used to learn, i.e. Smart boards. If not, go back in September or we can spend the rest of the year arguing about it. The teachers have had to live with some of the things in the contract and nobody complained before, she recommended going back in September, calling it student time, and putting this to rest once and for all.**

**Dr. Cirillo explained his point is not to call into question the use of time, but wants the School Committee to know that nothing happens in isolation; he will make concessions about recess being “principals” time; he is not being obstructionist, but this cannot be put into place this year.**

**Mr. Furtado commented that the School Committee’s intent was to return to the practice of aides supervising recess, while teachers are**



working with students and he is at a loss with this; the School Committee is only talking about one segment, putting recess back with aides and he does not understand the continued discussion; he wished to move forward with the resolution.

Mr. Silva advised that the School Committee should move on the resolution and the memo should be revised as directed. A motion was already made by Mrs. Rossi, seconded by Mr. Tellier and Mr. Furtado. Vote 5-0.

**PBGR Update/Graduation Projections** – Dr. Cirillo explained that this information was presented at the last meeting and that the High School Principal, Janet Sheehan, was present to provide an update and answer questions.

**Discussion:** Mr. Tsonos asked about tracking senior's progress and what programs were in place to help them. Ms. Sheehan reported that there are deadlines all along the way for seniors to stay on track and

Out of 369 students in the senior class as of February 7, 2011, 173 have not completed portfolios; help is available on February 10th and 17th along with a portfolio camp on February 22nd. After vacation, seniors will have to make up portfolio assignments, finish senior projects and research papers; approximately 39 students will not walk at graduation, will have to complete their work during the summer, and receive their diploma at the end of August. Mrs. Rossi

**commented that students spend 12 years in East Providence schools and because of one project, they cannot walk on the stage at graduation.**

**Ms. Sheehan discussed the set of rules for Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements (PBGR) which includes community service, portfolio assessments, NECAP testing, senior projects, etc. and that interventions are in place and students and families are notified every step of the way. Ms. Sheehan explained that she will be providing recommendations to the School Committee shortly in advance of the RI Department of Education visit in the fall, as to how to define what proficiency means, and what do we want to ask students to do. She will be working with the faculty on it; graduates should have skills and be able to attend college without remediation. The NECAP testing can be used to make adjustments and provide a good means to improve instruction; the requirements are different around the state.**

**Dr. Caswell, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment advised that there have been opportunities over the last few years for students to take entry level courses at CCRI if students did not meet requirements; a high school diploma is not enough today.**

**Discussion: Mrs. Rossi would like to meet with the Principal to learn more about this. Mr. Furtado commented that if students did complete the work, this is a disservice to them; almost half the senior**

class did not do what they were supposed to do; in the long run passing them to their senior year was a disservice.

Dr. Caswell referred to the School Committee Policy, IV.D.1. Placement, Promotion and Retention, which states that “a student will be retained in a grade if he/she does not earn five (5) credits” and that if a student does not complete the required portfolio entries (14 per year) he/she must attend summer school and that failure to attend summer school may jeopardize the student’s graduation status and placement for the next school year. (The “may” should be changed to “will.”)

Mr. Furtado commented that this will not help students who are not being caught early enough and that some students are good at music but not at math and the need to try to reach out to their talents and passions. Ms. Sheehan stressed the importance of getting kids where they need to be and that digital portfolios would help with that; the biggest problem is no access or opportunity for those students. Dr. Cirillo is in the process of reviewing that.

Verizon Bill Report – already covered.

IV.A.2. School Day (inclement weather/student entry) – First Passage (Revised Policy) – Mr. Tellier reported that when he wrote up the policy change, he did not realize there was a time change; no time should be specified, just entry 5 minutes before school when

**temperature is below 32 degrees.**

**Dr. Cirillo advised that the old policy called for 15 minutes with kids going in at 8:40AM and teachers are not there until 8:45AM so there is no access to the classrooms. Mr. Tellier wanted the changes added.**

**Nancy Cullion, Principal of Silver Spring School talked about the supervision issue; they are on duty at 8:45AM and principals have students' best interest at heart; they have never had an issue and she hopes to maintain "principal's discretion." Mr. Tsonos said that there were problems only at one or two schools and comments made that "kids can take it." Therefore, there must be a system-wide policy because some principals had an attitude about it.**

**Motion by Mr. Tellier to approve the amendment to the policy, seconded by Mr. Furtado for first passage. Vote 5-0.**

## **New Business**

**Hiring Procedures and Staffing Policies to include Freezes – Mr. Tsonos reported that some discussion had already taken place and he asked to include this item on the next agenda.**

**Three Tier Diploma Resolution (Resolution for Board of Regents based on Chariho Resolution)**

**Mr. Tsonos reported that Chariho passed a resolution to be forwarded**

to the State asking that members being appointed to the Board of Regents should have classroom experience and that this School Committee is also in favor of that. Mr. Furtado read the Chariho resolution: “appoint a majority of individuals who possess actual time in the classroom to replace those members of the Board of Regents whose terms have expired or will have expired by January 31, 2011.” “Further resolved that Chariho requests that fellow School Committees support their resolution.

**Time Clocks – Mrs. Rossi requested to table until next meeting.**

**Social or No Child Left Behind Policies (Social Promotion Policy/Practice for District)** Mr. Tsonos would like more information on the PBGR and how the students are tracked as they are moved forward. Mrs. Rossi asked if this would have to be done by policy. Dr. Cirillo provided a copy of the current policy to the School Committee ( IV.D.1.) Mr. Tellier asked what would happen if a student failed the same subject every year such as math; the Superintendent explained there are math and literacy interventions in place.

Dr. Caswell explained that the past practice has been to complete the grade and encourage summer school; last year Nova online courses were used; the idea is to make it more remedial than punishment. Teachers are now meeting and a lot is developing as we go along such as math intervention this year and work on special education next year. Dr. Cirillo said students are not just left out there; this is a

team concept; there is more recognition; more intervention and support; it is not just about NECAP scores.

Mrs. Rossi would like to hear from the Middle School teachers since they work with the kids every day to find out how they feel we can help kids before they get to the High School. Mr. Furtado suggested holding a meeting at one of the middle schools for that purpose.

Watters Building Plan – Mr. Barham advised that about \$7,000 has been spend over six months to keep the building from deteriorating and there is currently a small abatement project going on; leaky pipes in the basement caused damage to the floor tiles which will be covered by our insurer. It is expected that the Certificate of Occupancy from the Building Inspector and Fire Department will be issued approximately March 1st.

Dr. Cirillo explained this is to be an outreach similar to the Bradley Partnership; there was a need to expand before and after school programs and Watters was not being used. We received grants of \$38,000, \$12,000 and \$5,000 for this purpose. After school from 3-5PM, Waddington and Oldham students will be transported by bus to this location. We have recently been asked to join COZS – Child Opportunity Zones (\*full service community school model of school-linked family centers that bring schools, families and communities together to promote success in school for all children and youth) and he hoped to open the building when the Certificate of

Occupancy is received. Mr. Walsh from Waterville Maine, who runs a similar program, was used as a consultant.

Mr. Barham advised that the amount of \$2.84 Sq. Ft. was determined including cost of utilities and with no intent to make a profit. Dr. Cirillo commented that it is a stable group of people looking for other possibilities. Mr. Furtado thought if it is a Community Center, we should partner with the city.

Dr. Cirillo took exception with the way the letter to the City has been portrayed, since his department is a department of the City and has worked cooperatively with the City on issues such as consolidation, TANS, legal services and other issues; he has had positive conversations with the City Manager and cooperation on projects with the Public Works Department; things have been done that were never done before such as improvements at Silver Spring School as an example.

Discussion: Mrs. Rossi asked about occupancy by March 1st. Dr. Cirillo explained that the March date is fluid and can be moved back; code violations, licenses, etc. have to be completed; we are waiting on tile replacement and a series of things, and if not able to open now, it will have to go to the next school year.

In response to a question from Mrs. Rossi as to what agreement had been signed, Dr. Cirillo replied that an agreement has been drafted and he has not received the full contract yet.

**Mr. Rossi asked about the contracts for the \$800,000 ESCO bond. Mr. Barham explained that was for windows and boiler work. Mrs. Rossi said she struggles with the fact there is no education going on there and for us to sink that much money in a building that is not bringing up test scores; the School Committee needs to take a serious look at this before kids are put in that building. We have buildings falling apart and kids not graduating; social services should be done by the city; we have issues in other buildings; Oldham already decimated enough. She would like this on hold to be able to decide as a School Committee.**

**Dr. Cirillo said we have been invited as a COZ family center and part of the strategy is student success; there is a possibility to receive substantial grant money and he is not doing this for a bad reason; from preschool to High School this is to help academics; train parents; and develop a full service school; this is a good thing and agencies wanted to become involved. Mr. Furtado asked if contracts will come before School Committee for approval.**

**Dr. Cirillo said he has been working on this project for over a year; we not only have the potential to cover the operating costs, but also to bring money to the district. Mr. Tsonos asked about how many partnership contracts are in place; Dr. Cirillo responded, not Meeting Street; just Bradley; YMCA agreed to help paint play areas at no charge. (Mr. Silva should review any contracts).**



**Public Comment II – Laura Laviano, special education teacher has a personal interest in passing students on; she teaches a third and fourth grade class and it is difficult to teach both levels; teaching is done at functional level, but testing and report cards are at grade level; she feels this is a huge injustice and a problem at the elementary level; the district needs to be adjusted; there is a discrepancy between the state and the district; everything is based on NECAP scores. She does not believe full inclusion is for everyone; a life skills program is needed at the elementary level and moved along to the Middle School.**

**Dr. Caswell explained that we know who the kids are, but we have to continue to move them along; parents don't want their kids held back; this is a big problem everywhere. She felt that the Interim Director of Pupil Personnel, Cheryl Ursillo, would be better able to speak on this subject.**

**Announcements – Mr. Tsonos related that the School Committee has been doing everything in its power to building a strong rapport with the city to move the School Department forward and this is all about allocation of resources to classrooms for education. A motion was made by Mr. Furtado to adjourn at 11:30PM, seconded by Mrs. Rossi. Vote 5-0.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant**

**Stephen Furtado, Clerk of the Committee**